

November 25, 2019

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I would like to again thank you for announcing in July the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) intention to award a \$125 million INFRA grant toward the Howard Street Tunnel Project. Since your announcement, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) has worked closely with CSX, the owner of the tunnel, to develop a plan to close that funding gap.

I am pleased to report that our efforts have paid off, and we have identified a variety of State, private, and federal formula sources to close the funding gap. At this point, the \$466 million project is fully funded.

This nationally significant project has been a priority for the State of Maryland for decades, and once complete, it will fundamentally change the way containerized cargo moves around the country by creating a double-stack rail network to and from the Port of Baltimore and along the entire I-95 rail corridor.

MDOT is grateful to partner with USDOT to deliver this critically important project. Joint development projects such as this, which bring together the State, federal, and private sector, are crucial to tackling the transportation challenges facing our nation. We have discussed a kickoff meeting in Baltimore with the Federal Railroad Administration team and look forward to scheduling that meeting soon.

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on the status of the Howard Street Tunnel Project. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,



Pete K. Rahn
Secretary

cc: Mr. James M. Foote, President and Chief Executive Officer, CSX
Ms. Anne Reinke, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Congressional Affairs, USDOT